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Community Health News

Georgia Southern University

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Georgia Southern Examines Black Mobility on Tybee Island

May 18, 2018



Tybee Island, Georgia has a problematic racial history. During the Jim Crow era, the popular beach town was segregated and off-limits to Savannah's majority African American population. More recently, Tybee officials have actively worked to end Orange Crush, an annual spring beach bash attended mostly by students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities from within the region. Partygoers and promoters of Orange Crush have engaged in ongoing clashes with residents and Tybee officials for nearly 30 years, charging them with racial discrimination and profiling. Residents express frustration with traffic, trash, crime, and noise and have put forth measures that seek to put an end to the annual event. Utilizing archival research, semi-structured interviews, and participant observation, this study will situate Orange Crush within a larger framework centered on tourism, mobilities,

and black sense of place. In this piece, we will examine historic and present-day efforts to control the mobile black body through policing and measures put forth by Tybee Island to end the event. Finally, we will consider how the 30-year story of Orange Crush is part of the geography and sense of place of many African Americans in the region, despite actions by Tybee Island to limit access.

““You’re out of your place”: Black Mobility on Tybee Island, Georgia from Civil Rights to Orange Crush,” was recently published in *Southeastern Geographer*.

Mr. Jeffery R. Finney, MPH student at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus was the lead author. Dr. Amy E. Potter, faculty mentor and assistant professor in the Geology and Geography at Georgia Southern University was the co-author.

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Georgia Southern Identifies Factors for Sick Cell Carrier Screening Among African Americans

May 18, 2018



Guidelines recommend that African Americans know their sickle cell trait status to inform reproductive health decisions. Few studies have applied a behavioral theory to identify factors associated with sickle cell trait screening to inform intervention targets to increase this behavior. We applied a Sickle Cell Trait Screening Framework to identify factors associated with African Americans' intention to ask for sickle cell trait screening. Participants (N = 300), ages 18 to 35, completed a cross-sectional survey. A three-step sequential ordinary least squares regression analysis identified factors influencing intention. Results indicated socio-demographic factors (age, education), knowledge and fear beliefs (screening knowledge, perceived threat), and reasoned action approach (RAA) constructs were associated with intention. RAA constructs influenced intention over knowledge and fear beliefs with an increase in R² of .468. Perceived behavioral control was more predictive of intention ($\beta = .576$, $p < .001$). Attitude and perceived norm also had significant weights ($\beta = .325$ and $\beta = .192$, both $p < .001$, respectively). Findings from this study can inform strategies (e.g., eliminating costs associated with screening, reducing fear of painful tests) to increase sickle cell trait screening among African Americans. Ultimately, more sickle cell carriers will become aware of their trait status and be able to make informed reproductive health decisions.

["Identifying Factors Underlying the Decision for Sick Cell Carrier Screening Among African Americans Within Middle Reproductive Age,"](#) was recently published in the Journal of Genetic Counseling.

Dr. Tilicia Mayo-Gamble, assistant professor of community health behavior and education at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University was the lead author.

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